

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING 2022 AGENDA



Holy Trinity, Walton

Monday 16th May, 2022 7pm in the Church

Vestry Meeting 2022

This part of the evening can be attended by anyone on the electoral roll or resident in the Parish of Walton.

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24th May, 2021 7pm.
4. Matters arising.
5. Election of Churchwardens.
6. AOB.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

This part of the evening may be attended by members of the electoral roll for the parish.

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 24th May, 2021
3. Matters arising
4. Brief reflections on the life of our churches and ministry and mission across the parish
5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2021.
6. Re-election of Electoral Roll Officer.
7. Annual Parochial Church Council Report 2021.
8. Treasurer's Report 2021.
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
10. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church.
11. Election of Parochial Church Council Members 2022/2023 and Deanery Synod representatives 2020/2023.
12. AOB *please let the Rector or the church office know of any items in advance.*
13. Closing Prayer.

HOLY TRINITY, WALTON Minutes of Meetings on 24th May, 2021 at 7pm held in church

ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' VESTRY MEETING

Present Revd Ana Lawrence (AL), Sonia Beaty (SB), Hilda Grint (HG), Liz Selway (LS), Yvonne Guerin (YG), Andy Savage (AS), Brenda Stradling (BSt), Bernard Sinclair (BS)

- 1. Welcome and Opening Prayer** – the Rector, Revd Ana Lawrence welcomed everyone and read from 1 Chronicles 16 about the arrival of the Ark in Jerusalem, emphasizing the giving of praise to the Lord, remembering His deeds in the past and giving thanks. AL then led us in prayer.
- 2. Apologies for absence** Sandra Gristock, Wendy Devenish.
- 3. Minutes of Vestry Meeting on 12th October 2020**
Adoption proposed by LS, seconded by SB. Approved.
- 4. Matters arising**
There were none.
- 5. Election of Churchwardens**
Sandra Gristock was proposed by Jane Doyle, seconded by LS and duly elected.
- 6. Any other business**
None.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Present: as above for Vestry Meeting 2021.

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
Sandra Gristock, Wendy Devenish
- 2. Minutes of meeting on 12th October 2020**
Approved, proposed by HG, seconded by YG.
- 3. Matters arising**
None.
- 4. Rector's Reflections** on the effect of the pandemic, with online services being the norm over the last year, subject to some stopping and starting as the regulations changed, and social adjustments had to be made. Sterling work has been done by our officers in the area of safeguarding. Particular thanks to Sandra (SG), whose contribution has been over and above the call of duty. It would be really good if some of the work she does could be shared by others. Thanks also to Sonia (SB) for all her work in the area of finance.

This has been a time of waiting. Thank you for your patience and fortitude.

5. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

SB reported that there were 19 on the roll.

6. Election of Electoral Roll Officer

Sonia Beaty, proposed by LS, seconded by BSt, duly elected.

7. Annual Parochial Church Council Reports

Benefice Reports were as follows:

Pastoral Care (AL), House Groups (AL), Lay Ministry (AL), Mission and Outreach (AL), Charitable Giving (Kevin Lawrence), Avalon Pioneer Minister (Revd Sr Diana Greenfield), Prayer (Jeff Brewer).

Parish Reports

Deanery Synod (SG), Churchwarden (SG), Safeguarding (SG), Open the Book (Pauline Hatrey - PH)
Walton C of E VC Primary School Governance (PH)

8. Treasurer's Report 2020

Approved. Thanks to SB.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Re-appointment of Edward Howells Associates Ltd proposed by HG, seconded by SB.

10. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

See Churchwarden's Report.

AL pointed out that there is work needing to be done, the financing of which needs to be considered.
The last quinquennial survey was about 5 years ago: the next one may be delayed due to the pandemic.

11. Election of PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives 2021/22

Yvonne Guerin indicated her willingness to serve on the PCC. Her election was proposed by LS, seconded by BSt and she was duly elected. There are no other changes to the membership of the PCC, or the Deanery Synod representative.

The Rector thanked all the members of the PCC for their service over the past year.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Closing Prayer

AL closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting ended at 7.24 pm.

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A year ago, in my previous rector's report, I wrote about the concept of waiting and whilst Covid and all the associated restrictions had begun to ease off towards the end of the year, 2021 still felt like a season of ongoing waiting. At the beginning of the year, we were worshipping online once again, and other meetings continued in a similar way until a re-opening of all our churches on Easter Sunday.

I recognise that this has been a painful time with a longing for the removal of face coverings, an ability to sit close together in church and something of a return to 'normality'. I know that the strains of living with Covid have limited us socially and in so many other aspects of our intentional outreach. Not being able to get into schools, hospitals and nursing homes has been frustrating for the clergy and those who administer home communion and pastorally visit. Some of this began to change over the year, though the change has been gradual and fragile, so easily reversing on an outbreak of Covid in any institution.

Despite the restrictions and frustrations, some of the highlights were the continuation of the Bible course and the various Lent groups, all of which met online. After a few false starts, a return to our churches meant that we could host a 'back to church' Sunday in September, where it was good to see the return of some 'old' friends and some new faces. We also had an almost 'normal' programme of Christmas services and outreach both of the well loved and familiar and a few new things including 'Get in the Picture' #babyjesusrocks and blue Christmas. Our PCC's tackled some weighty issues during the year and gathered together for a day away in October, some of the fruits of which we hope and pray we will see in 2022. Summer rain failed to dampen the rectory garden party in August, and it was good to welcome so many into our home at last.

2021 has been a year of goodbye and welcome. Caroline Riall (Mission Church) one of our readers moved away in the Spring and in the Autumn, we welcomed Alison Tolson, who is training for ordained ministry at Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford and is on placement with us.

It was wonderful to see our own Suzie Williams (Mission Church) be licensed to a new chaplaincy role with the Glastonbury and Street Sea Cadets. Kevin Lawrence (Mission church) was formally 'welcomed' into the Diocese at Wells Cathedral for the transfer of his reader licence, and it was good to support Andy Savage (Walton) at his confirmation service also in the cathedral.

Inevitably, 2021 saw some sad farewells as we mourned the deaths of, amongst others, John Troak (Street), Heather Kennard (Street) and Gary Sowerby (Street). Whilst such longstanding servants of our churches will leave a huge gap, I have been encouraged to see, as our churches reopen, new faces joining the church family. Even amidst ongoing restrictions, it was a joy to celebrate 13 baptisms and 6 weddings during the year.

I am grateful to our Parish Safeguarding Officers who undertake an administrative role to ensure that all are both kept safe and up to date with ongoing training requirements. Thanks go to Sonia, our benefice administrator, who works tirelessly, flexibly, and often well beyond her contracted hours.

I want to pay tribute to Sandra Gristock, our warden, treasurer, and the PCC as we have continued to navigate new ways of doing things both in procedural matters and in the arrangements that we have had

to put in place during the months when our churches have been open in order to keep everyone safe. A huge 'thank you' to all those who lead and preach at our Sunday and Midweek Services: licenced Readers, Lay Worship Assistants, intercessors, welcomers, and readers. I want to also thank my clergy colleagues, Rev'd David Hatrey and Rev'd Sister Diana Greenfield for their support, commitment and partnership as we lead our churches together.

Ana Lawrence, Rector

2021 APCM REPORTS

BENEFICE REPORTS

Pastoral Care

As churches, we seek to support one another as part of our Christian calling and care. Pastoral care has been done in a variety of ways and as restrictions began to ease during the year, visiting people in their own homes resumed whilst the formal phoning lists began to be phased out over the first few months of 2021. I appreciate that there is much care ongoing including home visits, hospital visits (where possible) and other support. Most of the pastoral care is 'informal' and I am looking to adopt a more 'strategic' approach, without, of course, stifling any of the existing care.

Ana Lawrence

House groups

House groups are a place where we can share fellowship and Bible study and pray for one another as we grow closer. Over the past year, friendships have grown and deepened even with some meeting online. Over the year the online group have continued to meet. Meanwhile, the 'Body, Mind and Soul' group decided for good reason to cease meeting. In its place, two new groups have been created, a daytime and an evening group, both which began during the second part of the year. These groups are growing and there is an increased desire to belong to such groups. Groups have studied the bible using bible study resources and have also used the sermon series questions.

Ana Lawrence

Lay Ministry

As a benefice, we encourage lay ministry in its different forms and love to see people called by God into new areas of ministry. It has been good to see our lay ministers use their gifts more fully once again as our church doors have been open for Sunday worship since Easter.

We have a number of readers, a reader in training and lay worship assistants who are part of the leading and preaching team. The abundance of lay ministry adds a richness in the variety and quantity of services we can offer both on Sundays and midweek.

Ana Lawrence

Mission and Outreach

In my 2021 APCM report, I encouraged us to focus on being connected, reaching out to our community and sharing the great commission to make Jesus known.

Through our mission and evangelism in 2021, we have sought to continue to do this as a church family as Covid restrictions relaxed. Some of the ways we have seen this being worked out include: Christmas outreach such as 'Get in the Picture', #babyjesusrocks etc.

A Back to church Sunday in September. Various social activities including walks as we seek to 'do life together'. The launch of Messy Church in Walton. Restarting the coffee morning in Walton with a regular 'thought for the day' sharing Christian perspectives on current issues. Supporting others both through our charitable giving and one-off collections.

During the year our churches also collected items for the foodbank and through the Cox's charity we have been able to support various individuals in particular need.

Ana Lawrence

SWCD Churches Book club

It has been good to launch a new book club which is open to anyone from across our churches. The group meet roughly every two to three months to discuss the 'latest' read. Titles have varied considerably from 'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' to 'Sensible shoes' and 'Planet wise' amongst others. Do feel free to come along as we meet in a relaxed way to chat through our reactions and reflections to what we have read.

Ana Lawrence

Prayer Report

I am able to report on some of the Prayer initiatives that took place during 2021.

Prayer Topics in Lifeline:

Prayer Topics continued to be published every week in Lifeline until the introduction of the quarterly "Time to Pray" prayer diary. Subsequently, a "For your Prayers" section was added to the weekly Lifeline to provide information for some particular prayer needs.

Prayer Support Group:

While still affectionally referred to as the Prayer Chain, the Prayer Support Group has continued to receive a number of prayer requests across a variety of prayer needs. It is worth stressing that the Prayer Support Group is and remains: -

1. a small group of Church members who have a heart for praying for the needs of others, which
2. treats all prayer requests in the strictest confidence.

Prayer requests can be made by anyone, and not just by those who are part of the group – all you need to do to ask for prayer is to simply email me at prayers.street@gmail.com with an outline of the particular prayer need.

Thy Kingdom Come:

The Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) initiative was held between Ascension Day and Pentecost 2021 – with resources made available across the Benefice. A detailed Guide to TKC was produced for the Benefice outlining everything that was planned and being made available.

As in previous years Church members were encouraged to: -

- pray for 5, family or friends, to come to know Jesus,
- follow in daily reflective prayer using either the dedicated Prayer Journal or Novena that were made available to Church members, and
- join in the 24-hour Prayer vigil which was delivered throughout the 24-hours by either coming to one of churches at a set time or to pray at home.

I am uncertain as to the number of people who joined this initiative in one way or another. However, those who I know that did take part, found it a worthwhile and uplifting experience.

Tuesday Morning Prayer:

A small but dedicated group met, via zoom, on most Tuesday mornings at 8:00am, to pray for the needs of the world.

Jeff Brewer

Charitable Giving

In all of our parishes we have a long tradition of supporting other organisations through charitable giving and, in late 2020, a group was constituted, from across the benefice, to consider how we might develop this further.

Appointed by the PCCs the groups drew up guidelines and criteria for our giving and, following approval of these by each PCC in early 2021, members of the church family from across the benefice were invited to nominate organisations for their parish to support.

As a result and following approval at each PCC. 12 organisations were supported during 2021, 4 by each parish, being a mixture of local, national and international causes, involved in a range of work. Some were new to us, whilst others we have maintained our support for over many years.

Whilst restrictions in our churches meant that we were limited in the way we could promote the work of these charities and share their stories, regular articles in 'Life' and details on our web site kept people in touch, whilst a number of events were held during the year to support individual causes. In addition, prayers for our partners were included in our 'Time to Pray' resource and elsewhere.

We are always keen to improve the way we communicate about those organisations we support and find new ways of sharing their stories, but generally the profile of our charitable partners has been improved this year. A disappointment has been that our aspiration to find a cause that we could support across the benefice has not yet been realised, but we are sufficiently encouraged to continue with this agreed approach for a second year.

Kevin Lawrence, on behalf of the benefice Charitable Giving Group

School's Work

Open the Book

Open the Book offers primary school children an opportunity to hear and re-enact key Bible stories. Our team in Street and Walton has volunteers from our local churches. The sessions are about 15 – 20 minutes and we use three year rolling programme materials from the Bible Society.

Sadly, due to the Covid pandemic we have still been unable to go into Walton, Elmhurst, Hindhayes and Brookside Schools to share our Bible stories with the children since March 2020. We are however still actively praying for the school communities. We met as a team in January 2022 to catch up with each other and look at updates to the situation. We also discussed Safeguarding and DBS, making sure we all have the necessary documents to volunteer as Storytellers. It was great to see the team again.

As a team we hope to return as soon as we can. We are ready and waiting for the good news from our local schools.

Pauline Hatrey, Open the Book co-ordinator

Walton Church of England VC Primary School Governance

We have two Foundation governors, including our Rector Ana, as well as a co-opted member with a specific focus on Church school distinctiveness. We are all members of the full governing body as well the governor's Ethos Team which takes the lead in ensuring that the distinctive Christian values underpin all aspects of the school's life. This year we have been able to meet in person and maintaining close links with the church and school. A key function of the Ethos team is to advise the headteacher and the full governing body on any matters relating to the ethos and spiritual life of the school.

The Ethos team last year contributed to the development of the school strapline linked to its vision: 'Every child, Every chance, Everyday'. We have been determining its effect on the school community and their awareness of its meaning for them. It is linked to the Bible verse in John chapter 10 verse 10 – 'Life in all its fullness'.

The Ethos team have worked on linking Bible stories to the Christian values of the school. We enjoyed the challenge. The church school is due its SIAMS inspection within the next academic year, 2022-2023 and the Ethos team has a key role to play in this.

We take a full role in school governance and we have all been linked to a subject area.

It has been a rewarding year with governors being able to make monitoring visits to the school and Ana being able to take collective worship.

Pauline Hatrey, Ethos Team leader

Deanery synod

The first meeting of the year was in Feb 2021 and due to covid was held on zoom. The meeting started with a minute's silence to remember Jill Done who has stood as secretary for 12 years and done sterling work throughout that time. She will be very much missed by all.

We now have a Deanery Mission planning group similar to a standing committee to a PCC. At present our representatives are Jane Tompsett and Sandra Gristock.

Jane Durham continues to work as part time parish priest for Wheathill and Half time Deanery Mission enabler. In this role she produces the termly prayer diary and works on the Deanery Mission plan. She facilitated a deanery away day and continues to offer Lay worship assistant training. Latterly her focus has been on rolling out the Living in Love and Faith course to clergy and churches in the Dioceses. The deadline for Deaneries to have delivered the LLF course was extended to March 2022. Jane made it clear that she wishes to have ongoing dialogue with all congregations in order for her job to be a success. We currently support Janes role with a levy of £3.50 per member but this may go up in the future.

We were introduced to Ed Gregory our Deanery accompanier and Diocesan director of Education. His role is to support inter church and schoolwork and develop links and working bonds throughout Bath and Wells. He reported in the Nov meeting that Somerset schools are being moved either to academies or Somerset County council. The Diocese will provide direction after its meeting on 4th Nov. A new initiative we were asked to pray for was Finding peace within, a meditative practice being run by Chris Whittingham. During the November meeting Jane Durham led a creative brainstorming session based on the 5 Marks of Mission to inform the vision for the new Deanery plan. We were also introduced to the idea that Glastonbury and Shepton deaneries may look at the possibility of merging at some point in the future. Hold on to your hats more to come on that in next year's report.

There is no doubt that Deanery Synod meetings have become more interactive and livelier in the past few years and it is very enjoyable to go along and feel like you can represent the concern and desire of the congregation so if you think this is a role you may want to explore, I am sure any of the Synod reps or Ana would be only too happy to chat to you.

Suzie Williams, Deanery Synod Rep, on behalf of the benefice

Eco Church

Eco Church Group members for part or all of 2021: Trish Cox, Pat King, Helen Thomas (Compton Dundon), Kay Savage, Suzie Williams, David Yemm, Sue Ripley (Street), Sandra Gristock (Walton).

Eco Church Awards

Saint Andrew's, Compton Dundon, applied to the A Rocha Eco Church scheme and received a Bronze Award in July 2021, the other three churches in the Benefice had received their Bronze Awards in 2020. Our work in 2021 was to maintain and try to improve on that level with the aim of applying for a Silver or Gold Award.

Wilder Churches

During the year we participated in Wilder Churches, a churchyard project jointly organized by the Diocese and Somerset Wildlife Trust. Some changes had already been initiated in Street (including the Mission Church grounds) and Walton. Through regular webinars we were encouraged to take a detailed look at our churchyards and to develop management plans that respected wildlife including plants. We were fortunate in being able to involve Celia Linney (Compton Dundon) who provided detailed plant surveys of Compton Dundon, Street Parish and Walton churchyards. These revealed an fascinating mix of plants including some unusual trees in Street Parish churchyard. We applied for funding from Mendip District Council towards management of the new graveyard at Walton including hedge planting to take place in 2022.

Energy Use and Carbon Footprints

We calculated the Carbon Footprint of each of the four Churches in the benefice using the online Carbon 360° Survey. Following on from this we began the process of obtaining energy audits through Green Journey.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to these and other Eco Church activities, including those in the Eco Church Group.

Sue Ripley

Bereavement café

The benefice bereavement café formally came into existence in September 2021. This followed some two years of waiting during the Covid pandemic and at least 18 months previous to this in setting out the aims and structure for the initiative to take shape. Behind the scenes other bereavement cafes were visited and good practice identified. This led to the theft of approaches and types of open-ended questions which could facilitate discussions. Through a consideration of other ideas from Cruise and beyond various strategies have been put in place; this means that no one coming can anticipate what we will be doing. We meet once a month at the Mission Church, at a time when those who have lost a loved one have suggested they feel lonely.

The aim of the bereavement café is to offer a safe place where anyone can share, if they decide, to share thoughts and memories. This can be part of the healing process, it is not a once and cure all, rather a gradual move to come to terms and move on, whatever this may mean for each individual. We have created postcards to give away which shows what we do. All of the funeral directors in the Street area have taken them and any funerals involving those from the benefice are left one of these. Our thanks go to Kevin L for his skills in putting this together.

We are enormously grateful for the skilled input of Sue Ripley in this venture, whose knowledge we have drawn upon heavily. She has led training sessions so those who sit down with 'our guest' have an understanding of what to say and how to say it. There are things we can say and things we should not. Volunteers have come forward and given up their time to learn and be supportive in these groups. In addition, others have kindly helped to prepare refreshments, which have become a feature of our meetings. The additive of things go better with cake seems to me to certainly be true.(If there are those who could offer a cake or similar from time to time, we would seriously welcome this.)

Are we making a difference? I am not sure how to measure this! If it is simply numbers, then maybe we are not yet a success. Numbers vary, but a core is becoming clear, they value this time. Feedback has been good. A frequent response has been, it was not what we thought it was going to be like. But when asked, 'what did you expect?' there has been no reply. We know from other bereavement groups that it can take 18 months to 2 years to become established. Covid has hindered this. We wait, expectantly for the Lord's direction and seek to bring his peace and love into lives that have been hurt and where there is fear. What can you do? Simple, take one of the postcards and give it away to someone whom you feel would like support and care. We would rather you give one away than did nothing.
(PS I like coffee cake!)

David Hatrey

PARISH REPORTS

Churchwarden Report

This year again started with our Church services being held on zoom, along with meetings, funerals and licensing services. We are grateful for this as we couldn't have managed for 18 months without our celebrating together as a Church family. We were able to meet in person from mid April albeit with precautions. Some of these are still in place but only to keep us as safe as we can be during this difficult time.

Our clock was removed on the 27th January for automating and we still await its return. During our May APCM, Liz Selway offered to stand as deputy Church Warden, and I thank her so much for all her help.

Our Eco Church and Wilder Church yard aims are continuing to move slowly forward in conjunction with the Diocese and Somerset Wildlife Trust. Our bells were ring again in October after the tower was checked and cleaned. It was such a joy to hear the bells after such a long time.

The Church family had an away day at Bagley in October and by November we were able to start fundraising again and we enjoyed a wonderful musical evening in the village hall.

My grateful thanks to all our Church family for their support, help and encouragement in everything we do to keep our Church alive and witnessing in our village.

Sandra Gristock

Safeguarding Report for the Churches of Street and Walton

Sandra Gristock and Jane Tompsett have continued to work together as the safeguarding parish officers. Though 2021 has been another year affected by covid. The Street and Walton churches are up to date with all DBS checks.

Due to covid the Diocese have run no face-to-face safeguarding courses. We thank those who have completed their Co and C1 being completed on line. These are found on <http://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>. Please remember to let us know when you have done these.

The Diocese have bought out an online safeguarding action plan template which the PCC's have accepted. Safeguarding is important for a safe environment to worship in and is essential that we are all involved for the protection of our vulnerable young people and adults but also for our own protection. Risk assessments are in the process of being updated as groups have restarted again.

We both thank you for all your support during this last year and look forward to meeting and training face to face in the near future.

Sandra Gristock and Jane Tompsett, Parish Safeguarding Officers

Electoral Roll Report

20 on the list. Since last year 1 new person has been added to the roll.

Sonia Beaty, Electoral Roll Officer

Friends of Walton

We the friends met six times between June 2021 and April 2022. Coffee mornings in Church on Thursdays to become part of Friends activities and be managed on a rota basis, they resumed again on 9th October. Money to go into General fund.

Several proposed activities were postponed due to Covid restrictions.

The Harvest supper was replaced by coffee and cake in Church after the Harvest festival service.

We held an event in the Village Hall on Saturday 13th November with a variety of sketches and musical pieces including Andy Savage and Rough around the Edges.

Tickets were £10 which included a supper. This was a great success and much enjoyed.

A paper Quiz was sold at £2 copy leading up to Christmas. This was compiled by Liz Brown and was very well received.

At the end of November we had a stall selling crafts and Christmas gifts in Compton Dundon Village hall, when Compton Dundon held their Big Breakfast.

A Quiz was held in Church on 19th February. Questions were compiled by Liz Brown who also acted as question master, assisted by Sandra. We had 10 tables, and this event was very popular and much enjoyed.

We are presently making arrangements for the Fun day on 7th May. Church was beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter. Thank you to all involved.

I am not sure of the amounts of money raised by each event, but these will be in the accounts. I would like to express special thanks to Sandra for opening our meetings with a prayer, and for her support.

Liz Selway

Reordering

Following a temporary faculty, granted by the diocese in 2015, the PCC have begun to consider longer term plans for the permanent reordering of the inside of our building to meet both our current and future needs. We are aware that, in addition, substantial and increasingly urgent work is required on the fabric including the roof and our plans will need to address both these needs.

We recognise that this is a major project for the church with substantial financial implications. However, as our building is likely to continue to deteriorate and no action on the temporary faculty would require us to return things to the way they were with choir stalls etc, our judgement is that taking no action is not really an option.

Ana Lawrence

Messy Church

This was launched in the Autumn as part of our outreach to families in the community and was introduced with a Messy Harvest followed by Messy Christmas. It has been a bit of a slow start, which is primarily Covid related in terms of the numbers of families who have been able to come, but we hope, going forward, we will begin to attract new families to each of these events. It has been encouraging to have an able and dedicated team to help make this happen, with crafts, refreshments, worship.

Ana Lawrence